Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Heath Cited on Need for U.S. To Improve Ties

FL311928 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The statements just made in London by former British Prime Minister Edward Heath should be taken into consideration by the U.S. leaders when evaluating the status of relations with Cuba. In an interview for PRENSA LATINA carried by GRANMA today, Heath, who is now a Conservative member of Parliament, said: The United States has seen that its anti-Cuban strategy is going nowhere. Therefore, it should think about improving relations with the Caribbean island.

The invitation is politically important because it comes not only from a proven friend of the United States but also from an exceptional observer. Heath has been in Cuba 3 times in the past 10 years and he is a savvy and experienced politician. Of course, Cuba is not proposing anything to the United States. Whatever consideration the U.S. leaders may give to the views of their friends is up to them. What we want to stress in Heath's gesture is how responsible and serious his view is. We understand that he is suggesting the United States abandon its present policy of defamatory campaigns, threats, and economic aggression against Cuba and act according to the reality of the times.

If the United States applauds a fresh view of conflicts in others, these others can only expect the same from the United States. Cuba has never been and never will be an obstacle to any serious attempt that might lead to an improvement in relations with the United States. The responsibility is entirely Washington's because, as Fidel has said, American officials have never resigned themselves to the existence of the Cuban revolution nor to the establishment of a social system different from that of the United States on this continent. Reading between the lines, these are the prejudices we believe Heath criticizes in U.S. dealings with Cuba.

This is the fundamental cause for all of the U.S. hostility against our people who, as the British politician himself says, are a reflection of the normal and peaceful situation characteristic of life in Cuba today.

U.S. Deployments for 'Ocean Venture' Condemned

FL012305 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1941 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] The Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico are once again disturbed by the menacing presence of the hawks of the Pentagon. Only today the military maneuvers for "Ocean Venture" [preceding two words in English] began in the area with the ostentatious deployment of 40,000 members of the U.S. Air Force, Navy, and Army.

The purpose of such operations, which take place periodically, is not merely to show the combat power of the largest imperialist power; above all, they serve as practice for its intervention plans, as occurred in the case of Grenada. The Pentagon always claims that the "Ocean Venture" maneuvers serve to test the ability of the U.S. to respond in a case in which its interests in the Caribbean Basin are threatened. Actually, they respond to its intimidating and aggressive policy.

Traditionally, "Ocean Venture" includes naval battle group operations, naval air exercises, airborne troop assaults, amphibious landings, and conventional ground movements. For the exercise, the U.S. Armed Forces use a strategic belt around the Caribbean formed by the Southern Command in Panama, the Guantanamo Naval Base, the Puerto Rican island of Vieques, the antisubmarine complex in the Bahamas, and the installations of Florida and Key West [as heard].

The United States at this moment is carrying out an enormous military deployment in the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico, just at a time when no one rules out a possible U.S. intervention in Panama.

The hawks are stalking and the peoples are on the alert.

Castro Welcomes Visiting Mozambican President

FL012045 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] The president of the Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] party and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique arrived this afternoon in Havana at the official invitation of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC and president of the Councils of State and Ministers.

The top leader of the brother African country received the special greeting from Fidel at the Jose Marti International Airport. Meanwhile, a group of people representing Havana expressed their joy by cheering and waving small banners.

Upon the arrival of President Chissano, the band played the national anthems of Cuba and Mozambique and a 21-gun salute was fired. Then, the Mozambican chief of state, accompanied by Fidel, reviewed the honor guard comprising the three branches.

The official welcoming ceremony for President Joaquim Alberto Chissano ended with an honor guard parade led by Colonel Elio Guerrero Ramos, which marched before the top leaders of Cuba and the brother African country.

A high-level delegation accompanies President Chissano on his official visit. The entourage is composed of Major General Jacinto Soares Veloso, member of the Frelimo Politburo and National Assembly deputy; Pascoal Manuel Mocumbi, Central Committee secretary and minister

of foreign affairs; (Jose Pascoal Santamela), governor of Inhambane Province and member of the Central Committe; and Lieutenant General (Pedro Gaibao Odaya), among other figures.

Leaders of the party and government, members of the diplomatic corps, and Mozambican students were present at Chissano's welcome.

Castro Bestows Marti Order

FL020355 [Editorial Report] Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish at 0035 GMT on 2 April begins a live relay from Havana's Palace of the Revolution of the ceremony in which President Fidel Castro bestows the Jose Marti Order on his Mozambican counterpart, Joaquim Alberto Chissano. The voice of announcer Manolo Ortega is heard describing the event.

The ceremony begins with Castro and Chissano entering the Protocol Hall of the Palace of the Revolution, where the Cuban and Mozambican delegations are awaiting them. Each head of state joins his respective delegation and, once in place, the band begins playing the national anthems of the two countries.

Juan Almeida Bosque, vice president of the Council of State, delivers an 8-minute speech. After Almeida concludes his remarks, Castro and Chissano meet in the middle of the room, and Castro pins the medal on him. Those present applaud while the two men embrace.

At approximately 0050 GMT, Chissano steps up to a microphone and begins a speech in Portuguese, with simultaneous translation into Spanish. He concludes his remarks at 0057 GMT.

The ceremony concludes with members of the two delegations gathering around Castro and Chissano.

Almeida Addresses Award Ceremony

FL021356 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 0040 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Speech by Juan Almeida Bosque, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Cuban Council of State, at a ceremony in Havana's Palace of the Revolution to award the Jose Marti Order to visiting Mozambican President Joaquim Alberto Chissano—live]

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro; Comrade Joaquim Alberto Chissano, president of the Frelimo and the People's Republic of Mozambique; comrades of the Angolan delegation; comrades gathered here:

We greet the top representatives of Frelimo and of the government of the fraternal People's Republic of Mozambique today with a deep feeling of brotherhood. At a moment like this, we recall with emotion the long, difficult, and heroic struggle of the people of Mozambique against the colonial yoke under the patriotic banners of Frelimo and the leadership, first, of its founder, Eduardo Mondlane, and later of our comrade in struggle, Samora Moises Machel.

Following a protracted war of liberation that aroused the admiration and solidarity of the progressive governments and peoples of the world, Mozambique won its definitive independence on 25 June 1975. The new Mozambican nation was thus born. It was forged in the fire of the war of liberation that united the ethnic groups from Rovuma to Maputo.

We recall, Comrade Chissano, the important role that you played in this process as the prime minister of the transitional government until the definitive proclamation of independence. The Mozambican people and their vanguard, the Frelimo, immediately initiated the national reconstruction that began to erase the profound traces of the colonial past. The fascist apartheid regime was not willing to accept the independence of Mozambique as a just and legitimate fact in keeping with history. From the very first, it began its destabilizing actions, aggression, and threats against the young republic, trying to prevent its economic and social development at all costs by means of the dirty war of the counterrevolutionary bands—invented, organized, financed, and led by the South African racists.

The horrendous crimes that the armed bandits commit in extensive rural areas are designed to intimidate the population, to paralyze the economy, and to sow hunger and death everywhere. There are also the natural disasters—a prolonged drought and devastating floods. Hundreds of thousands of victims is the painful toll that Mozambique has had to pay in recent years.

Our condemnation of the hateful apartheid regime extends to the principal allies of Pretoria. With their repeated vetos at the UN Security Council, they are blocking global economic sanctions that the entire international community demands to curb the criminal aggression of the racists, executioners of the South African people, illegal occupiers of Namibia, and aggressors in Angola, Mozambique, and other frontline countries.

In this past week, the world has learned with horror and indignation of three unmentionable crimes: the hanging of 14 South African patriots, the murder of 4 Botswana citizens—3 of them women—and the cowardly attack on the representative of the African National Congress in Paris. It is as if the racists, infuriated by the heroic resistance of the Angolan troops and Cuban internationalist combatants in Cuito Cuanavale and the whole of southern Angola, are trying to hide their defeat by murdering defenseless people. Despite the difficulties brought about by the dirty war of Pretoria's mercenary bands, the people of Mozambique, under the leadership of the Frelimo party, keep fighting this enemy of the human race.

In Mozambique, the struggle continues, the victory will be certain. We ourselves know from experience what this constant armed aggression and economic pressure mean. But we also know that when an entire people are mobilized to confront these attacks with unbreakable firmness, and they have the support of the progressive governments, the socialist countries, and the peoples of the world, victory is won.

Comrade Chissano, the Mozambican people will always have, in this endeavor, the solidarity of our people, educated by the party and Fidel in the ideals of internationalism. Together, we are stronger in this struggle against imperialism, against those who try to deny our people their right to decide their own destinies.

We are convinced that your delegation's visit to Cuba, the exchanges that we will have during these days, will make our relations of friendship and cooperation even closer. We are certain that our meetings will serve to further our identification with the common struggle for peace, socialism, the liberation of peoples, and the economic and social development of the countries of the Third World.

In you, dear Comrade Chissano, we salute the noble and tireless man who has continued to promote the emancipation, independence, and development of the heroic people of Mozambique; as well as your outstanding role in the African revolutionary progressive movement, in the struggle of the whole human race against racism and oppression on the African continent. By decision of our Council of State, we have the deep satisfaction of bestowing upon you, through Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, the high award that bears the name of our national hero: the Jose Marti Order.

Please receive it as a symbol of our brotherhood, of our unity, and of our unshakable friendship. Thank you very much. [applause]

Chissano Responds to Award

FL021417 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 0050 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Speech by Mozambican President Joaquim Alberto Chissano at a ceremony in Havana's Palace of the Revolution to award him the Jose Marti Order; in Portuguese with simultaneous translation into Spanish—live]

[Text] Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Council of State, first secretary of the PCC, and president of the Council of Ministers of Cuba; comrade leaders of the PCC; comrades gathered here:

We have just been awarded the Jose Marti medal. It is a great honor for us. It is an honor for the Mozambican people. It is the Cuban's people recognition of the sacrifices that the Mozambicans made to win their independence. To compare the struggle of the Mozambican people with the struggle led by Jose Marti is an incentive for all Mozambicans who, arms in hand, continue to defend the conquests of our predecessors.

We are moved by the words of Comrade Juan Almeida when he speaks of our heroes, who initiated the armed struggle for national liberation, who proclaimed the independence of our country, and who left us in charge of consolidating this independence and of developing our economy to give added meaning to this liberation. We are pleased to see that we are not alone in this struggle. We remember the 1960's, when we began our contacts with the still young Republic of Cuba. We remember that we always found understanding, support, and encouragement. Cuba was with us during the struggle. Following independence, we felt the friendly and supportive hand of the Cuban people who helped us build our fatherland.

The results of that aid are very evident today. It is not selfish or self-centered help but internationalist help. The Cuban people look at the struggle of the Mozambican people as their own. It is not strange, therefore, that today our struggle is compared to that of Jose Marti.

We would like to thank the Cuban people for this gesture, which is not only an incentive. We see it as a call for greater responsibility. We would like to declare here that we will do everything to deserve this honor, to be deserving of wearing this Jose Marti medal. We know how this hero is loved by the Cuban people. We will do everything so that he is also loved by the Mozambican people.

With this encouragement, we will move forward in the liberation of peoples all over the world, especially the peoples of southern Africa. The liberation of the Namibian people must be achieved as soon as possible. The liberation of the South African people from the repugnant apartheid regime will continue to have our staunch support.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Cuban people for the heroism and dedication they display in Angola to help the brother people of Angola defend themselves against the aggression of the racists and consolidate their independence. We would like to express our appreciation for this spirit of internationalism. We are certain that victory will be ours. We congratulate the Angolan and Cuban people for the recent victories won against the racist regime, especially in Cuito Cuanavale.

We of southern Africa, of the Frontline, are following this solidarity demonstrated by the Cuban people with satisfaction and pride. In particular, we would like to highlight the role of Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, who knew how to establish trust between our peoples and provide encouragement to all our peoples in difficult times. In the name of my delegation, in the name of the

Mozambican people, in the name of the Frelimo party, I would like, through these words, to extend thanks for the honor granted us with the bestowing of this Jose Marti Order. Thank you very much. [applause]

Castro, Chissano Visit Hospital

FL021810 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Report by Gisela Bel Heredia]

[Text] Visits to the "Camaron Encantado" Child Care Center in Playa Municipality and the William Soler Cardiology Center in the company of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro took up the morning of Mozambican President Joaquim Alberto Chissano's 2d day in Cuba.

While at the cardiology center, Fidel and center director Carlos Dotres briefed Chissano, also president of the Frelimo party, on the organization of the institution, the number of operations, and Cuban medical achievements in this field. Concluding his tour, Chissano praised this form of respect for human rights, something children are entitled to from birth. Fidel, who was visiting the center for the 28th time, wrote in the visitors' book: [Begin recording of Castro, reading] This is the first time I have chosen to write my opinion in a visitors' book. I am amazed with the success achieved by this cardiovascular surgery center for children in such a short time. It is even operating on premature babies. The survival rate is high and going up. I am increasingly convinced that it is not only the biggest, but that it will be best, in the world. This was a hope expressed, without obligation in terms of fulfillment, hardly a year ago. I warmly congratulate you. [end recording]

The Mozambican president and his delegation will continue their schedule of visits this afternoon.

Visits Genetic Engineering Center

FL021748 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Text] Joaquim Chissano, president of the People's Republic of Mozambique and the Frelimo party, visited the Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center this morning. He was accompanied by Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Politburo and Secretariat, and the official Mozambican delegation visiting us. Director Manuel Limonta welcomed them to the center and gave them a detailed explanation of the center's objectives in its work in genetic engineering and molecular biology. He also reported on the use of the center's findings in the manufacture of medicine, reactives, and substances required by industry.

Chissano was briefed on the location of the center and its various areas, as well as on the new construction projects underway, which will make it possible to improve the living conditions of the scientific personnel working at the center. During his tour, he asked about the production of interferon and its uses. Dr Limonta explained to him that at this time our country has a large number of patients who have been treated with this protein of many practical uses. Dr Limonta also talked about the positive results obtained in its application in the diagnosis of diseases and the regeneration of skin in burn cases. Moreover, he reported on the center's notable advances in the process to develop fermentation agents for the production of cheese and in the purification of biomolecules.

Following his tour of the research areas, Dr Limonta invited the Mozambican president to sign the institution's guest book. Chissano wrote words of appreciation for the center's valuable contribution to the development of science. He said that it was an example of how, with dedication, an underdeveloped country can achieve economic independence and development.

Arrives on Isle of Youth

PA040255 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Apr 88

[Text] Mozambican head of state Joaquim Chissano today arrived on Cuba's Isle of Youth, where he was warmly received by Mozambican and Cuban students.

Accompanied by Cuban Education Minister Jose Ramon Fernandez, Chissano traveled from Havana to the small island, located south of the capital, on the 3d day of his official visit to Cuba.

More than 2,700 Mozambican students go to high schools, universities, and polytechnical institutes on the Isle of Youth as part of the internationalist cooperation offered by the Cuban Government.

Chissano, who is also president of the Frelimo, began official talks with President Fidel Castro in Havana yesterday.

Cuban, FAPLA Troops Decorated in Angola

FL021216 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Text] Cuban internationalist combatants and members of the FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] have been awarded the medal for the defense of Cuito Cuanavale in the area itself in Angola. The medal was instituted by the Cuban Council of State for the heroic defenders of Cuito Cuanavale. Along with the Cuban medal, the decorated troops received another award granted by the People's Assembly of the People's Republic of Angola for services to the fatherland.

The medals were presented by Angolan Defense Minister Pedro Maria Tonha and Cuban Ambassador Martin Mora.

Zambian Delegation Arrives for Trade Talks

FL281320 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Text] A delegation from the Republic of Zambia headed by Jameson Kalaluka, minister of commerce and industry of that brother country, has arrived in our country on a working visit. Ricardo Cabrisas, minister of foreign trade of Cuba, welcomed the delegation, which will hold talks on the prospects for future trade development between the two countries.

[Begin Kalaluka recording, in English with simultaneous Spanish translation] I have come with my colleagues as a follow-up to the trade agreement which was signed in Lusaka. They have come to see in what areas cooperatio.. is possible. I would also like to add that Zambia and Cuba are countries that enjoy a great friendship and that have had great successes in the field of international politics. The two countries would also like to see their political relations on the same level as that of the economic cooperation between both countries. Thank you very much. [end recording]

The delegation is composed of officers from the National Bank of Zambia and by other officials. It will visit places of economic and social interest.

Castro Receives Delegation

FL011233 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1132 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received Jameson Kalaluka, minister of commerce and industry of Zambia. The distinguished visitor conveyed greetings from Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, who is also chairman of the Frontline States group.

They discussed the situation in southern Africa and noted the Frontline States' solidarity with the struggle of the Angolan people against the aggression of the South African regime. Fidel and Kalaluka also discussed the development of Cuban-Zambian cooperation and other matters of bilateral interest.

Our commander in chief sent warm and fraternal greetings to President Kaunda.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Sierra Leone

FL311308 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] The Republics of Cuba and Sierra Leone have signed a cooperation agreement at the Foreign Ministry in Havana. The document was signed by Jose R. Fernandez, education minister of Cuba, and Moses Dumbuya, minister of education, cultural affairs, and sports of Sierra Leone. Among other aspects, the agreement provides for cooperation in education, participation in joint research in higher education, familiarization with the cultural life in each country, and increased sharing of information in library work, the film industry, and music recordings, as well as exchanges of artistic delegations.

GDR National Front Delegation Continues Visit

FL311758 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1403 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] A delegation of the GDR National Front is visiting several areas of historical interest in Segundo Frente, Santiago de Cuba Province. The group, headed by Dr Lothar Kolditz, president of the National Front and minister [as heard] of the People's Chamber Presidium, was accompanied in its tour by Esteban Lazo and Armando Acosta Cordero, first PCC secretary in Santiago and national coordinator of the CDR [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution], respectively.

The GDR delegation held a fraternal meeting with members of the Santiago CDR in the town of Loma Blanca, and expressed interest in the CDR work. The delegation also visited offices of family doctors and the old command post of the second eastern front.

Rodriguez Receives Kolditz

FL011303 Havana Radio Pogreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez has received Prof Lothar Kolditz in Havana. Kolditz is a prominent figure in the GDR, president of the National Front and member of the Council of State. The two men highlighted the ties of friendship between the two countries and exchanged views on bilateral and international issues.

Bulgarian Youth Leader Arrives on Visit

FL010255 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Andrey Bundzhulov, the top representative of the Bulgarian youth, arrived today in our country after visiting Nicaragua. Roberto Robaina, his Cuban counterpart, met him at the airport. Bundzhulov is heading the Dimitrov Komsomol delegation.

Great perspectives are opening in the field of computers.

[Begin Bundzhulov recording, in Bulgarian with simultaneous translation into Spanish] One of the fundamental parts of the existing agreement between our youth unions will be the work in the field of computer technology. We are trying to find ways to increase this cooperation. I believe that during these days here we will talk precisely about this. [end recording]

Several meetings with Cuban youths and extensive tours of areas of interest are among his work objectives. Tomorrow he will go to Santiago de Cuba.

Arismendi Visits for Talks With Party Leaders

FL311828 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Rodney Arismendi, secretary general of the Communist Party of Uruguay, arrived in Cuba this morning at the invitation of the PCC. The Uruguayan delegation was welcomed by Manuel Pineiro Losada, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of its America Department. During their stay in Cuba, Arismendi and his delegation will hold talks with our party's leaders in line with the traditional relations of friendship.

Arismendi spoke about the referendum to be held shortly in his country. [Begin Arismendi recording] The referendum obviously presupposes a first-class political armwrestling contest between the forces of the left and some of the forces of the National Party and other parties such as the Civic Union with the support of all trade unions and the popular, intellectual, student organizations, and the participation of the government, the ruling party, the overwhelming majority of the National Party factions, all the media. It is evident that a big vote against the law of impunity in these circumstances will not be something circumscribed to this topic, although the topic in itself is a big one in Washington's democracy, its consolidation, intensification, and development. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

Meets With Risquet

FL011347 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Politburo and Secretariat, has received Rodney Arismendi, secretary general of the Communist Party of Uruguay [PCU], who arrived in our country leading a PCU delegation. They discussed topics of mutual interest, especially the current political situation in Latin America and the role of revolutionary and progressive organizations at this juncture.

Costa Rican Legislator Cited on Women's Prison

FL020300 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Text] A delegation of Costa Rican parliamentarians visited the Provincial Assembly of the People's Government of the City of Havana today.

Mr Antonio Tacsan Lam, first secretary of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica, who is heading the mission, was received by Pedro Chavez, president of the City of Havana Government. The visitors were given an extensive briefing on the Cuban parliamentary system and other current domestic topics.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What are the objectives of this delegation which you head?

[Tacsan Lam] There are several. Mainly it is in response to an invitation extended to us by the Government of the Republic of Cuba—and we are grateful for its kindness—to come here to see for ourselves some aspects of this Cuban reality which is not very well known in the world and in my country, Costa Rica. We were here in Havana on Monday visiting such places as the Naranjitos [corrects himself] Los Naranjos and other places. We also went to Santiago.

[Reporter] We also understand that you visited the eastern women's prison. Could you give us your impressions of the place?

[Tacsan Lam] I said, during some remarks I made at the prison to express thanks, that I personally had never visited a prison, and the prison we visited yesterday depicts a very different reality from the concept I had held of a prison. For me it is not a prison; it is an education center. [end recording]

Rodriguez Receives Relatives of Fire Victims

FL020230 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Text] The bodies of the three comrades who died in a fire at our country's consulate in Montreal, Canada last Tuesday arrived in our country this afternoon. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and other state leaders received a group of relatives who traveled with the remains from our diplomatic mission in Canada to our country. Amid emotions of deep regret, the victims' relatives and fellow workers as well as airport employees were present when the coffins were taken out of the Cubana Airlines aircraft which brought them to the fatherland.

The Foreign Ministry reported in a note that the deaths occurred on Tuesday at approximately 1900, as a result of a violent fire that spread quickly. The three comrades were trapped in the blaze. The cause of the fire is not known.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez expressed his condolences to the relatives and acquaintances of 35-year-old Pablo Gonzalez Martinez, representative of Foreign Trade Ministry enterprises; 33-year-old Norma Goderich Rios, administrative employee and the wife of the vice consul; and 35-year-old (Jose Antonio Perez Albaluco), service worker at the consulate. [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Prime Minister Seaga Presents 1988-89 Budget

FL311420 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Edward Seaga tabled an $8-billion budget for the financial year 1988-89 in the House of Representatives yesterday. On the

recurring side, there will be $4.7 billion while on the capital side $3.3 billion. Last year, the sum was $6.9 billion, but actual experience in the revised estimate was $6.5 billion.

In the estimate for 1988-89 on the capital side there are major increases in the allocations for education, health, and water supplies. In the case of education, this year's allocation is $133.6 million. This is an increase of 67 percent over last year's allocation. Health received $128.9 million, an increase of 123 percent, while local government, mainly for the provision of water supplies, received 17.6 percent increase for a total of $121.4 million.

These estimates will now go to the standing finance committee of the house which meets on April 5. House leader (J.G. Smith) says the schedule date for the opening and closing of the 1988-89 budget debate are April 21 and May 3, respectively. The debates will include at least two other speakers other than the prime minister. The printed volume containing details of the estimates was not tabled in parliament yesterday because of failure in the computerization of the detailed figures due largely to power failures.

El Salvador

ARENA To Request Annulment of Vote Count

PA011359 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Excerpt] ARENA [National Republican Alliance] has announced it will request the annulment of the final vote count before the Central Elections Council. Meanwhile, the Christian Democratic Party said this attitude is a desperate measure to win at the table what they lost at the polls.

Major Roberto D'Aubuisson said the Central Elections Council's vote count is nothing more than a count of election lists that have been altered to favor certain political institutions. He said that this is why if the results favoring ARENA were to be changed, the party would file an appeal [words indistinct].

[Begin D'Aubuisson recording] We will file an appeal to nullify the vote count once it is made. According to law, they will have to accept it immediately, and 24 hours later [words indistinct] we will present the proof we have. What they are doing has no legal value. It is as if a group of loafers began counting votes in Libertad Plaza. I do not care how many votes they count. That is worthless and inaccurate. We will ask the Armed Forces to send the results of the original election lists at the polls to see if those results coincide with the ones being altered here. [end recording]

Christian Democratic Party leader Dr Jose Antonio Morales Ehrlich said that even though the Central Elections Council must resolve ARENA's appeal, the vote count is provided for by law; therefore, ARENA should accept the final count, which reflects the people's will. [passage omitted]

Counting Continues

PA012034 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Despite the fact that vote counting continues at the Central Elections Council, unofficially it was learned that ARENA won 29 deputies, while the Christian Democratic Party, PDC, won 23. This leaves the PCN [National Conciliation Party] with seven deputies and the National Liberation Party, PNL, with one.

The only official report gathered so far from the vote count, which PDC and PCN councilmen are carrying out, is on the number of deputies for La Union. La Union is one of the three departments still pending. Results reported last night by the Central Elections Council included two PDC seats and one for ARENA.

[Speaker, in progress] ...pulled out of a sleeve. We will have the vote count for Usulutan Department in a few hours. [end recording]

However, those few hours dragged on until today. Regrettably, at the time of preparing this report the PDC and PCN councilmen would not report to the press on the headway made on checking the polling rosters for San Salvador and Usulutan Departments. However, unofficial reports indicate that in the case of San Salvador, after counting the votes once more, the PNL surpasses ARENA by some 100 votes, trying in this way to gain the 13th deputy for San Salvador.

In Usulutan Department, where the PDC and PCN are fighting over the third deputy, those same unofficial reports indicate that the PCN leads the PDC by only 30 votes. If this information proves to be correct, the next legislative assembly could be made up of 29 ARENA deputies, 23 PDC, 7 PCN, and 1 PNL.

FMLN Commanders Hold News Conference in Perquin

PA012013 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Report by Roxana Lemus—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Joaquin Villalobos, one of the five FMLN commanders, has threatened an increase in urban actions to the extent that the Army increases the level of the war in rural areas and attacks against the people's movement. Villalobos, accompanied by Commanders Jorge Melendez, alias Jonas; Roberto Roca; and Commander Luisa, held a news conference for local and foreign correspondents in Perquin, located in the northern area of the war-torn Morazan Department. Commander Joaquin Villalobos said that the FMLN forces are doing well politically and militarily. Likewise, Commander Villalobos said that the 20 March elections for mayors and deputies were a failure due to a marked absenteeism. The rebel leader stressed that military actions should be increased and that the effects of the war should be experienced by all sectors in the country:

[Villalobos] "They [all sectors in the country] should feel the war. We are not ashamed of stating this. They should feel and live the war as the people live it. They will think about it as they experience it.

"They [the Salvadoran Army] come here and drop a couple of 500-pound bombs on a village and it is the poor who live in that village who are injured. That is not fair. They should understand that they will suffer the direct consequences of all the actions that they launch against the people's movement. For example, some days ago they conducted a bombing operation here—an important detail that I will add here is that lately we have been launching night attacks and some small and well-(?planned) daytime actions—the second or third daytime action involved a bombing operation. The minute the Army felt some pressure, they resorted to the use of

their A-37's. They attacked the civilian population. But that same night, or the following day, we responded with a car bomb. They should know that we are not going to sit back and do nothing."

Meanwhile, Commander Roberto Roca reported that his guerrilla units have increased and that thus their military power has expanded:

[Roca] "The FMLN has not infiltrated the city with guerrillas. The urban commandos have staged the actions. Of course, they are FMLN units. These comrades have sought links with the guerrillas and with the army of peasants, which has been in the countryside. We can say that now more than ever the FMLN is a solid army of mostly workers and peasants."

Commander Roberto Roca's statement contradicts the Armed Forces' report. The Armed Forces says that the number of rebels has decreased and that their activity is restricted to small rural areas and to the launching of urban terrorist actions.

Another one of the commanders present at the news conference was Jorge Melendez. He said that the Salvadoran Army's only hope lies in waging air warfare. Melendez said that the FMLN is prepared for this:

[Melendez] "Their hopes are based on helicopters and air warfare. They even have problems increasing their numbers and have to conscript their recruits. They have problems maintaining the Army, and they maintain it according to what comes from the United States. In this war, in this war in which we have won a political battle—not only in the areas we control but throughout the country and the cities—how many soldiers of the so-called national Army are really their soldiers? They should find that out. As we advance politically, as the support of the people increases, we find ourselves everywhere."

Villalobos explained that the guerrillas have new sections of forces looking for missiles, weapons they have yet to purchase but which they could easily obtain from the Nicaraguan contras. He said that, for the time being, the FMLN has antiaircraft grenades, which they have made.

Regarding a dialogue with President Jose Napoleon Duarte's government, Villalobos said that it could be used politically as the presidential elections draw closer.

[Villalobos] "Will there be a dialogue? There may or may not be a dialogue, but we do have a proposal that even includes the Army. They should think things over. The Reagan administration is becoming weaker. They should think things over. Not everything is in their favor. Things are going to begin to change, and there is still time for them to adopt an independent position and to find a national solution. Things will change later. There is an opportunity. We are willing to reach an understanding with the Army, but our political power and our military power must be recognized."

Despite the differences with the U.S. Government's policy, Commander Jorge Melendez said the United States is not their enemy.

[Melendez] "We are not enemies of the United States. When we speak about the departure of the North Americans, we are calling for a halt to the Reagan administration's policy of aggression. We are willing to reach understandings with the United States. The machinery, technology, education, and music binds us to the United States. I am saying this because this is our country; the Catholic religion, the processions, that is what we are all about. We are not talking about the United States or the USSR fighting over us. We are not asking that the United States leave so that we can join another bloc. We talk about viewing as a military target those who come as a military force. We talk about a national solution, but this does not exclude relations of respect with the great nation of the north. This even includes support. We are willing to receive support as long as it is not on the condition of surrendering our sovereignty."

In conclusion, Commander Villalobos said that the FMLN forces are ready for any invasion of U.S. troops. Villalobos accused the U.S. Government of being the main obstacle to the implementation of the Esquipulas II agreements and to the achievement of peace.

FMLN Leaders on Elections, Other Topics

Ferman Cienfuegos

PA011336 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Interview with Ferman Cienfuegos, member of the FMLN General Command, with unidentified reporter; date, place not given—live or recorded]

[Summary] [Reporter] A few days after the "electoral farce," what is your view of this situation, which has created a new crisis within the enemy's leadership?

[Cienfuegos] It is clear that "the electoral result has been a defeat of Ronald Reagan's plan in El Salvador and of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] strategy." This defeat will have other consequences, such as "a new political reshuffle, an intensification of the crisis, new infighting, and new changes and adjustments in the strategy of both the United States and the PDC. The oligarchy and the military High Command will have to make strategic readjustments."

[Reporter] What are the prospects for a political solution to the Salvadoran conflict in view of this new situation, this vacuum of power left in the country after the electoral farce?

[Cienfuegos] "As a result of the failure of Reagan's and the PDC's policy, there is a vacuum of political alternatives and a power vacuum. That power vacuum, that vacuum of alternatives, proposals, and political solutions, has increased." In view of this situation, "there is a greater awareness of the need for concerted efforts for peace and to find a political solution." The FMLN calls "on all national sectors to intensify the great task of coalescing all the various proposals to overcome the crisis." In this regard, we propose and issue a call for the strengthening of the forums held by the various sectors in order to turn them into "a great national forum that will make it possible to propose a solution aimed at [words indistinct] change this puppet government. This is our first call, because we feel that a political, negotiated solution can be strengthened if all national sectors work and [words indistinct] of all these various efforts that have been made during the past 2 or 3 years."

[Reporter] Our people know that within the PDC rank and file there has been discontent over the corruption and the arrogant actions of the so-called PDC clique. What is the message from the vanguard to the PDC rank and file?

[Cienfuegos] "On behalf of our General Command, we take this opportunity to issue a call to the PDC rank and file and to the PDC youth leaders and rank and file to make an effort to unify the PDC youth and the people. We think there is a chance for this. In other words, we believe that there are still national sectors in the PDC rank and file and youth and that they can contribute toward attaining a national consensus."

One must briefly look back to see how the PDC leadership has been alienating itself not only from the people but from the PDC rank and file. This began on 23 December 1979 when "the PDC committed itself to the U.S. Embassy and the Army High Command in the low-intensity war." In 1984, the PDC clique began to become alienated from the rank and file. "The clique has virtually no support from the rank and file" and does not represent the people's interests. It is also alienated from the PDC youth rank and file. "We issue a call for the PDC youth rank and file to make a political decision [words indistinct] for a reassembly with their people [words indistinct]."

Leonel Gonzalez

PA011835 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 25 March broadcasts a 37-minute recorded report on an interview with FMLN Commander Leonel Gonzalez. No date or place for the interview is given.

The announcer says Gonzalez was first asked to comment on the recent elections and widespread electoral absenteeism. Gonzalez's says: "Taking advantage of the opportunity Radio Venceremos and Radio Farabundo Marti have given me to reach our people and the international community, I send a warm and brotherly greeting on behalf of the FMLN General Command.

"In response to your question: The propagandist campaign aimed at concealing the phenomenon of absenteeism is [words indistinct] of 20 March. [Words indistinct] 50-percent absenteeism, and of the people registered at the Central Elections Council [words indistinct] approximately 800,000 to 500,000 refrained from voting. [Words indistinct] does not include the eligible voting population, which surpasses 2.5 million in El Salvador. The question is why so many people did not vote. [Words indistinct] these people did this to express their discontent with combative action [words indistinct]. We must explain this phenomenon [words indistinct].

"The FMLN stated from the beginning that those elections were serving the interventionist war carried out by the Reagan administration in El Salvador, social injustice, our people's [words indistinct]. Those elections, our General Command said, were [words indistinct]. From this position, our people, the various social forces, and even the church asked the political parties for concrete solutions to the serious problems El Salvador is facing. They needed clear solutions for attaining peace, resolving the economic crisis and its repercussions on the popular masses, resolving the [words indistinct] problem, and ending the gringo embassy's involvement in El Salvador's political affairs.

"The ruling Christian Democratic Party's [PDC] demagoguery has been unmasked over the past several years in this regard. This is the popular struggle, the combative struggle, our armed struggle by our people who have demonstrated that the gringo plans for El Salvador have no future. [Words indistinct] the Christian Democrats' demagoguery.

"[Words indistinct] Duarte promised a positive [words indistinct] with the people, which has worsened [words indistinct] one of the worst tricks, as never before seen in Salvadoran history. The masses have taken to the streets and are rejecting the genocide [words indistinct] the Salvadoran forces. Our people did not support any political party's position in this regard. They want alternative positions.

"I must also note the FDR's efforts to contribute to the resolution of El Salvador's crisis; it has tried to open a political space for itself in El Salvador. In the short time FDR representatives Drs Ungo and Zamora have been present, they stated a clear alternative that could resolve El Salvador's crisis. The people have begun to see and confirm the possibility of a solution. An alternative political solution has begun to emerge in El Salvador. [Words indistinct] the political and social forces of El Salvador to form a national platform to resolve the problems related [words indistinct].

"The FMLN General Command feels these efforts [words indistinct], because the problems of war and peace, economic problems, the lack of sovereignty, [words indistinct] despite serious problems. The PDC was defeated because our people no longer believe [words indistinct]. ARENA [National Republican Alliance], the [name indistinct] party, the oligarch's party, the [name indistinct] party, [words indistinct]."

Then announcer says: "At the time of this interview, atmospheric conditions rendered portions of the cassette inaudible. From this point on, we have transcribed this important interview with Comrade Leonel Gonzalez."

After this announcement, the announcer begins to give a report on the interview, citing Gonzalez throughout.

Answering a question on the PDC's upset during the elections, Gonzalez said the PDC's defeat represents a defeat not only for the counterinsurgency plans but also for Reagan's plans for El Salvador. Gonzalez added that by defeating Duarte, the Salvadoran people have also defeated the Reagan administration's foreign policy in El Salvador. The announcer cites Gonzalez as having said that the Salvadoran people have told the U.S. Administration that its "low-intensity conflict plan" has failed. Gonzalez said U.S. plans for the area are becoming complicated because the United States knows that an intervention would be very difficult and that Europe and Latin American have lost faith in the PDC.

Answering a question on Salvadoran Vice President Rodolfo Castillo Claramount's recent statements that the Salvadoran people have shifted to the right, the announcer reports that Gonzalez said: "The statement made by Castillo Claramount to the effect that the people have turned to the right is childish. A civilized people, like the Salvadoran people, cannot be fooled so easily. The 20 March elections show that the people rejected the PDC and its policies, that the people are against U.S. policies in our country. Our people know that ARENA is the party of the rich." Gonzalez recalled ARENA's background and the fact that it always rejected a dialogue with the Salvadoran people and political forces. Gonzalez stressed that ARENA will never work for the people, but rather to satisfy its own interests and the interests of the rich. The announcer says Gonzalez said that ARENA will "use U.S. aid to try to defeat the FMLN and to protect the interests of the rich."

Gonzalez concluded the interview by reiterating that an alleged U.S. counterinsurgency plan has been weakened and has received a serious blow. The announcer reports that Gonzalez said: "This is why our General Command is determined to continue fighting for a political solution in El Salvador. The FMLN and the FDR have said the problem of the war in El Salvador can only be resolved by the Salvadoran people. We must stop the U.S. Embassy from interfering in the resolution of our domestic problems. We must find a political solution to the armed conflict. The FMLN-FDR have proposed solutions and specific plans to achieve this. We will work with all the social, political, and popular sectors and draft a plan with the participation of all the active forces of the country."

Nicaragua

Government Insists on 6 April Contra Meeting

PA022138 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2042 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Communique issued by Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency of the Republic in Managua on 2 April]

[Text] Managua, 1 April 1988

Mr Aristides Sanchez, Director [title as heard]

Miami, United States of America.

Referring to your telephone call today, Friday, 1 April, at 1130, to propose the postponement of the meeting scheduled for 6 April in Managua, I hereby state the following:

1. The implementation of the 23 March Sapoa agreement has begun and it is extremely important to strictly abide by the agreement. The agreement clearly specifies the dates and deadlines that must be respected. The 23 March Sapoa agreement specifically states that 6 April is the date for the meeting in Managua between the delegation of the constitutional Government of Nicaragua and the delegation of the Resistance [Nicaraguan Resistance], to continue negotiations for a definite cease-fire.

2. The Nicaraguan Government sees with concern that the Resistance has been consistently failing to fulfill the agreed schedule. This seriously undermines the credibility of this process in the eyes of our people and the world. This statement is based on the following facts:

The meeting scheduled for 28 March began with a delay of several hours because the Resistance delegation arrived 4 hours after the established deadline. On 29 March the meeting was delayed 1 hour, the Resistance delegation insisted on concluding at 1700, and it refused to continue on 30 March as proposed by the Nicaraguan Government delegation, which sought to fulfill the goal of our meetings. Given that the Resistance delegation turned down the proposal, we were compelled to accept 5 April [date as heard] as the deadline for concluding the meeting, with the pledge that the demarcation of zones and the modus operandi would be established during the meeting.

3. The delegations of the constitutional Government of Nicaragua, both the special delegation and the top-level delegation comprised of plenipotentiary representatives who will attend the meeting on 6 April, are willing to

participate in the meeting as long as necessary until an agreement for a definite cease-fire is achieved. We feel that it is extremely important, if we are to successfully continue implementing the agreements, for the Resistance delegations to have the same authority to approve decisions and to attend the meeting with the same willingness to work until the goal is achieved in each meeting.

4. The constitutional Government of Nicaragua therefore feels it would be counterproductive to postpone the 6 April top-level meeting, and it believes that the meeting should be held on the date specified in the 23 March Sapoa agreement to attain an agreement on a definite cease-fire.

Yours truly,

Victor Hugo Tinoco, Vice Foreign Minister,

Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry.

copy to: Jaime Morales Carazo and Roberto Ferrey

Managua, 2 April 1988

[Signed] Information and Press Directorate, Presidency of the Republic

RN Charges Noncompliance

PA030253 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 0213 GMT 3 Apr 88

[Report by Ninoska Perez Castrellon from "the United States"]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] here in Miami, through Jorge Rosales, its press spokesman, announced the following communique, dated 2 April 1988:

The RN advises the Nicaraguan people and the peoples of the world that it has advised the Sandinist government, through its official liaison, Victor Hugo Tinoco, that it considers the following three points to constitute noncompliance with the Sapoa agreement:

1. The government has not released all the prisoners on the list offered by the RN.

2. The government violated point five and continues to violate it by barring the necessary sale of paper to the newspaper LA PRENSA for its publication while granting paper to other newspapers.

3. The objective is for the Sandinist government to end this noncompliance and overcome these violations as soon as possible, because if they persist the climate that should prevail at the high-level meeting in Managua will be damaged.

RN Proposes 12 Apr Talks

PA032003 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1841 GMT 3 Apr 88

[Text] Miami, 3 Apr (EFE)—The Nicaraguan contras have proposed to the Managua government that the talks scheduled for Wednesday in Sapoa be postponed until 12 April.

The announcement was made in Miami by rebel spokeswoman Marta Sacasa, who spoke about the existence of unresolved disputes over the territorial enclaves in which the contras must stay.

Sacasa has accused the Managua government of violating the temporary cease-fire agreement but did not say what kind of violation had been committed. She said: "We have noticed that the government has not complied with several of the requirements." She admitted that the contras have "logistical" problems for the cease-fire going fully into effect.

Sacasa said that a 6-day postponement will allow the two sides to comply with all the details of the agreement signed this past Friday; afterward, the negotiations for placing the rebels in five enclaves can take place.

This contra leader announced that a letter has been sent to Nicaraguan Vice Foreign Minister Victor Tinoco demanding the release of political prisoners, a list of whom has been delivered to Managua authorities.

Sacasa also mentioned the opposition's complaints about the difficulties that the daily LA PRENSA is going through in its effort to acquire printing material and paper.

Samuel Dickens, a government [not further identified] security official, today told the television network Univision that the agreement on the suspension of warlike activities in Nicaragua "was a disaster" for the contras and the Reagan government. On the same program Nicaraguan Ambassador Carlos Tunnermann affirmed that the Nicaraguan Government is not communist but Sandinist.

Ambassador Tunnermann said the Sapoa agreement "is an opportunity for peace" and reiterated the Sandinist government's commitment to incorporate the rebels into civilian life and to hand power to the opposition if it wins the elections.

"Never in history have communists shared power," Dickens replied. Dickens said Managua has military support from Cuba and the Soviet Union.

Tunnermann interpreted the Sapoa agreement as a "defeat for the U.S. extreme right."

MAP-ML Paper on Worker Problems, Strikes

PA011409 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] PRENSA PROLETARIA, the Marxist-Leninist People's Action Movement's [MAP-ML] newspaper, carries a report on serious problems facing construction workers because of the well-known rules that were agreed upon that have forced them to strike for more than 1 month.

PRENSA PROLETARIA reports that, as a result of MAP-ML and PSN [Nicaraguan Socialist Party] pressure within the national dialogue, the government finally decided to negotiate with striking automobile and construction workers.

Workers were dismissed shortly after the workers strike, which started on 29 February, was declared illegal by the Sandinist government.

Mass firing is part of the government's current economic policy, which is aimed at forcing workers to bear the full burden of the economic crisis.

The Union of Carpenters, Masons, Joiners, and Related Workers, SCAAS, is demanding an urgent review of the list of rules agreed upon, which was imposed by the Construction Ministry [Micons] on 29 February. SCAAS believes that the 1983 rules and conventional work agreements could be applied while this review is underway.

The workers demanded a wage increase of at least 200 percent to counter—although not fully—the effects of the high cost of living, a factor the government has been unable to curb.

SCAAS's Horacio Sanchez told PRENSA PROLETARIA that his organization has commissions of sufficiently qualified workers to review the rules. He added that when the time comes to work with figures, the sophisticated studies, and estimates of the Micons, which was merged with other ministries and the [words indistinct], are put aside as a result of the unstoppable inflation affecting the country.

More than 56 plants are paralyzed by the strike because of the government's impertinence and refusal to negotiate with the construction sector. The government tried to minimize the effects of this strike and has promoted the use of strike breakers; however, they could not resist for very long because of the low salaries.

Panama

Solis on FDP Use of 'Force' Against U.S.

PA011604 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 1 Apr 88 pp A-1, A-2

[Communique issued in Panama City on 31 March]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Communique [subhead]

Panamanian chief of state Manuel Solis Palma has described the statement by the U.S. executive branch that it does not intend to resort to military force against the Republic of Panama as an expression of prudence and good judgment.

Nevertheless, similar statements and assurances have preceded the unilateral initiation of large-scale hostilities by the U.S. Armed Forces on numerous occasions during the past 150 years on the American and other continents.

In view of the foregoing, and bearing in mind the magnitude of the mobilization of U.S. ground, air, and naval forces on Panamanian territory, territorial waters, and sovereign airspace—without authorization from the Panamanian Government and in violation of the 1977 Panama Canal Treaty and the Treaty Concerning the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal—the minister in charge of the Presidency has sent the following note to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar through Panama's permanent UN representative, asking the secretary general to make it known to the chiefs of mission of the UN member nations:

"Despite the situation created by the mobilization of U.S. Armed Forces in Panamanian territory, territorial waters, and sovereign airspace—without authorization from the Panamanian Government and in violation of the 1977 Panama Canal Treaty and the Treaty Concerning the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal—the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] have been instructed to refrain at all times from using lethal or destructive weapons against the U.S. Armed Forces, against U.S. civilians, or against property or installations owned by U.S. citizens or the U.S. Government. Only in the case of legitimate defense and after an unmistakable act of military force against the Republic of Panama or against the FDP will the latter receive orders to engage in combat. This is in permanent and strict observance of the stipulations of the Geneva Convention.

"Although it perceives the overwhelming power threatening it, the Republic of Panama, its government, its FDP, and its police and civilian authorities will not open the door to the fabrication of a charge of aggression or to attempts to justify the initiation of acts of aggression against Panama, as has occurred on numerous occasions since 1847, such as the shelling of Veracruz by the U.S. Navy and the subsequent invasion of Mexico by U.S. troops, and including the 1983 invasion of Grenada.

"If the U.S. Government were to order a military action against Panama, it would have to answer to the world and to the U.S. people for starting a military conflict without any justification whatsoever.

"Under no circumstances will the Republic of Panama fall for provocations, nor will it lend itself to the fabrication of incidents, and the Panamanian Government will at all times duly protect the safety and lives of the

local and foreign civilian population and guarantee the security, administration, operation, maintenance, protection, and defense of the Panama Canal in accordance with the treaties in force and international conventions signed by Panama."

Panama, 31 March 1988

FDP Mobilizes 2,000 Civilians at Headquarters

PA021639 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Text] Approximately 2,000 civilians have responded to a call from the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] to gather near the FDP headquarters in light of signs of U.S. provocations that have occurred in the last few hours. Those who have mobilized are mainly from the low-income districts of San Miguelito, El Chorrillo, and Curundu.

In Chiriqui Province, Panamanian workers' organizations are promoting the formation of a sovereignty battalion, and hundreds have received basic training by military instructors in the handling of weapons. This has taken place as a result of increasing U.S. pressures and the possibility of an invasion.

Reaction To Arrival of 1,300 U.S. Troops

Labor Sector Rejection

PA021726 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1641 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 2 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Today a military spokesman reported that the Panamanian Army has not yet voiced an opinion on the contingent of 1,300 U.S. soldiers who will join U.S. troops stationed in this country on Tuesday [5 April]. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Panama's labor sector rejected the arrival of the U.S. troops to military bases located in the Panama Canal basin.

[Panamanian labor leader] Rolando Ordonez told ACAN-EFE that this contingent of troops violates the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, a pact that stipulates that U.S. troops must leave Panamanian soil on 31 December 1999.

Relations between Panama and the United States have been at their lowest point since June, when the political crisis began.

FDP 'Defense Preparations'

PA022325 Paris AFP in Spanish 2141 GMT 2 Apr 88

[By Isidro Sanchez]

[Excerpts] Panama City, 2 Apr (AFP)—The Panama Defense Forces [FDP] have increased defense preparations in the last few hours to face a possible U.S. military action aimed at removing General Manuel Antonio Noriega from power, military sources have said.

The decision was made after Washington announced the deployment of 1,300 U.S. troops, who will join the 10,000 troops that are permanently stationed in the Canal Zone.

The FDP headquarters in this city was armed with artillery and protected with sandbagged trenches, while hundreds of young volunteers began to be militarily trained in various parts of the country. [passage omitted]

A climate of unusual tension was felt here on Good Friday evening following the report on the deployment of the 1,300 soldiers and the intention of the Reagan administration to adopt "drastic" measures in Panama to achieve the overthrow of the government and the extradition of Gen Noriega.

According to the White House, the mission of the U.S. troops will be to protect some 45,000 U.S. citizens who work in the Panama Canal Zone.

Meanwhile U.S. Channel 8 Television [U.S. Southern Command Network] is constantly broadcasting on the screen Personnel Movement Limitation Alpha, the lowest "alert" in the U.S. military.

Moreover, in the western province of Chiriqui, more than 900 young volunteers, who formed the Sovereignty Battalion, were being militarily trained here "in case of an invasion." [passage omitted]

Last week Noriega offered to resign from his post in May [month as received]—as requested by the Reagan administration and the local Catholic Church leadership—after the initiation of a dialogue "without foreign intervention."

Noriega also said the retirement of Lieutenant Colonel Jose Motta, military attache in Washington, and other officers is being studied.

To replace those who may possibly retire, he explained, Panama's ambassador to Israel Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Herrera, among others, may be returning. Herrera is being mentioned as one of the principal candidates to replace Noriega.

Herrera is considered here to be an old "Torrijista" and a man with a clean image.

Moreover, the relatives of former Police Chief Colonel Leonidas Macias, who headed a coup against Noriega, said today that the military man was sent to a prison in Veraguas Province, where is "being well treated."

Officials Condemn Decision

PA030225 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0143 GMT 3 Apr 88

[By Angus Macswan]

[Excerpts] Panama City, 2 Apr (REUTER)—Panamanian Government sources have condemned Washington's decision to send security reinforcement troops to the Canal Zone, saying that the United States is creating a psychological war to get General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Panama's strongman, to leave.

One source, who chose to remain anonymous, said that the decision announced on Friday to send 1,300 military policemen and 23 helicopters to reinforce the garrison of 10,000 U.S. troops in the Canal Zone was an example of the U.S. aggression seeking to retain control of that strategic interoceanic waterway, which according to the existing treaties must pass to Panamanian hands in 1999.

Noriega has been indicted by two U.S. courts on the charges of drug-trafficking and association to commit crimes.

Today U.S. Government sources admitted that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and his collaborators had proposed kidnapping Noriega to force him to appear before the U.S. courts, according to the newspaper THE LOS ANGELES TIMES. The operation was not carried out in view of the objection by Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci. [passage omitted]

Over the past weeks, the state television has showed pictures of Panamanian students killed by U.S. troops during anti-U.S. demonstrations at the doors of the Canal Zone in 1964. [passage omitted]

PDC Blames Noriega

PA031445 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 3 Apr 88 pp A-1, A-2

["Statement" issued by Christian Democratic Party (PDC) President Ricardo Arias Calderon in Panama City on 2 April]

[Text] This deployment of [additional U.S.] troops and aircraft [on 2 April to U.S. bases in the Panama Canal area] is a direct consequence of the anti-U.S. campaign that General Noriega has unleashed in a useless attempt to conceal the tragedy that his continued power signifies for the Panamanian people.

This confirms the Christian Democratic Party's warnings that Gen Noriega's actions were a provocation, considering that he has acted as an accomplice in drug-trafficking to the United States; has sent his supporters to violently attack the U.S. Embassy; has hurled all kinds of insults and threats at U.S. representatives; has arbitrarily arrested and mistreated U.S. citizens; has harassed canal pilots; and has secretely brought tons of weapons from Cuba and given them to unknown individuals. Gen Noriega's escalation of provocations has brought about a foreseeable escalation of reactions.

This endangers our national identity. Panama's fundamental interests are being compromised at the same time. Those interests require a relationship of serious cooperation with the United States for the complete fulfillment of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties and the economic well-being of the Panamanian people.

The PDC reaffirms that Gen Noriega's continued power is destroying both our country's national and international life. Under Gen Noriega's narcomilitary power, Panama is no longer just ungovernable, but it does not even function at the most basic level. We Panamanians must free ourselves of that power in order to survive as individuals and as a national community.

PDC President Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon

Reaction to Church Proposal for Dialogue

Opposition Accepts

PA012011 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1836 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 1 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The National Civic Crusade and two opposition parties have accepted Archbishop Marcos Gregorio McGrath's mediation in a national dialogue subject to the prior departure of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces.

The three opposition groups point out in a letter to McGrath, to which ACAN-EFE had access, that "the initiation of this mediation depends on Noriega responding positively to the Episcopal Conference's suggestions that the constitutional executive authority must be restored and that he be prepared to step down and leave the country immediately."

The letter is signed by Civic Crusade coordinator Alberto Boyd; Christian Democratic Party President Ricardo Arias Calderon; and Alfredo Ramirez, president of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement (MOLIRENA). [passage omitted]

The three opposition leaders add in their letter to Archbishop McGrath that they accept the Catholic Church's mediation subject to a "prior understanding about the participants."

Boyd, Arias, and Ramirez note that any agreements reached must be quickly concluded and must be guaranteed by the church through Archbishop McGrath and Apostolic Nuncio Jose Sebastian Laboa.

The agreements must also be guaranteed by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo, Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and the former Latin American heads of state who suggested the mediation.

They assert that by the time the mediation begins there must be no political prisoners and that all of the media currently closed must be fully free to resume publication "without restrictions."

The three leaders also say in their letter that the government must restore all guarantees and individual rights enshrined in the Constitution. [passage omitted]

The Authentic Panamenist Party, Panama's second largest political organization, has expressed its willingness to engage in dialogue to establish a "democratic government," "whose legitimatcy" is based on the will expressed by the people in the May 1984 elections. [passage omitted]

Nuncio Letter to Solis

PA031517 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 3 Apr 88 pp A-1, A-2

["Text" of letter by Msgr Jose Sebastian Laboa, apostolic nuncio to Panama, to Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, dated in Panama City on 29 March]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Panama City, 29 March 1988

Your Excellency Manuel Solis Palma

Minister in Charge of the Presidency

In Your Office

Your Excellency:

I hereby acknowledge your 27 March letter. I understand that your letter is an answer to the request that the CEP [Episcopal Conference of Panama] made to General Manuel Antonio Noriega on 24 March [to resign—FBIS].

I greatly appreciate Your Excellency's courtesy, but I sincerely believe that the original letter should have been sent to the CEP, which is the suitable addressee.

I want to clarify two points: first, the author of the request is not His Excellency Msgr Marcos Gregorio McGrath as your letter implies, but the entire CEP, which enjoys, because of its legal constitution, a very special, specific authority. The apostolic nuncio may receive a copy of your letter to keep the Apostolic See informed.

Second, I find it suitable to clarify that agreements between states and the Apostolic See do not interfere with the obligation and the divine right that bishops have to speak up on doctrinal issues involving faith or morals.

I will have the honor of informing the Holy Father as soon as possible of Your Excellency's concern along with my humble opinion.

Believe me always

Your Devoted Monsignor

Jose Sebastian Laboa

Titular Archbishop of Zarai

Apostolic Nuncio

c.c. Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega

Commander in Chief

Defense Forces of Panama

FUP Rejects Mediators

PA031735 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 3 Apr 88 pp A-1, A-7

[By Jorge Calvo]

[Text] The grand national dialogue convoked by the Patriotic Unity Front, FUP, is scheduled to begin tomorrow, Monday, at 1000. Prominent members and representatives of the Catholic Church, the National Civic Crusade, opposition political parties, the Democratic National Union, and important officials from the Defense Forces and the Presidency have been invited to attend.

The dialogue should take place in the Atlapa Conventions Center and is designed to seek a way out of the political and economic crisis the country has been enduring for almost 10 months.

The FUP comprises organizations such as FENASEP [National Federation of Associations of Public Employees], CONATO [National Council of Organized Workers], peasant settlements, and labor unions. CONATO's Rolando Ordonez reported that the FUP said this dialogue will take place without mediators and without conditions.

When asked about the method proposed by Spanish *Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and Costa Rican Pres*ident Oscar Arias, Ordonez—speaking on behalf of the FUP—said the organizations he represents reject this proposal because this is a problem of the Panamanians, who have the ability to resolve it.

Ordonez noted: "Because of this, the popular forces of Panama have found it suitable to convoke the country's political forces to a national dialogue among Panamanians. We, without conditions and without an agenda drafted prior to the national dialogue, should sit down to talk in the presence of the church, as a majority force in the country."

Ordonez added: "Something we cannot accept is to have a group of people and former presidents from this country [as published] putting conditions on us and participating in our dialogue. We do not view that favorably. We cannot imagine that situation. We believe that is not the way of resolving the national crisis. We do not reject a dialogue with the Catholic Church or the Panamanian Episcopal Council. We accept the participation of the church in our dialogue, but not in a dialogue imposed by foreigners."

Ordonez emphasized: "I will repeat this again; I am being emphatic: We accept a dialogue with the Panamanians, a dialogue convoked by Panamanians. We accept a Panamanian way out. We do not accept a convocation by foreigner. We do not accept conditions from foreigners. We do not accept an intervention by foreigners. This is not possible in this country, especially when there is a crisis situation."

Panamenists Respond

PA031940 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 3 Apr 88 pp A-1, A-2

["Text" of letter by Authentic Panamenist Party (PPA) Vice President Jorge P. Adames and Deputy General Secretary Guillermo Endara to Panamanian Archbishop Msgr Marcos Gregorio McGrath dated in Panama City on 1 April]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Panama City, 1 April 1988

Your Most Reverend Excellency

Msgr Marcos Gregorio McGrath

Archbishop of Panama

Mr Archbishop:

We appreciate your kind telephone calls to offer yourself as mediator in the serious crisis fatherland is experiencing.

The top PPA leaders discussed the dialogue proposal and reached the following conclusions:

1. Our party cannot be deaf to the clamor of an entire nation, particularly that of the humble and the needy, who today are going hungry because of the stubbornness and wickedness of a military dictatorship that refuses to leave the power it usurped 20 years ago. This clamor calls for the immediate removal of the FDP [Defense Forces] commander and his collaborators within the military leadership, as well as the establishment of a government that represents the people's will as expressed in the May 1984 elections.

2. Our condition as a civilized nation that wants to resolve its problems through a dialogue demands that this dialogue be held with all the freedoms and guarantees characteristic of free men and conscientious citizens. Without an independent media; with arbitrary arrests, which are nothing but the act of taking hostages; and with the examples of the recent police brutality and the protection of groups of paramilitary criminals; in sum, under the current Panamanian climate, any talks between the executioners and their victims and the slave drivers and their would-be slaves would not only be contemptible but would be doomed to fail because they would only propitiate, in practice, the evils and vices that these talks intend to eradicate.

Therefore, the mediation you propose can only be possible when the removal of the head of our autocracy is attained, when a true democracy with a government that represents the people's will is established, and when freedoms and guarantees are reestablished as befits Panamanians as free men.

Again we thank you for your efforts and we remain,

Very truly yours,

Authentic Panamenist Party

Jorge P. Adames, Vice President

Guillermo Endara G., Deputy General Secretary

Church Requests Responses

PA032233 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 3 Apr 88 pp A-1, A-2

[Communique issued by the Panama Metropolitan Curia in Panama City on 2 April]

[Text] Panamanians have never lived in a Lenten period with so much tension, division, and growing hardships for large sectors within the country. The people suffer and wait for the resurrection to give them a light of hope.

In this respect, it is convenient to offer citizens an explanation about the mediation service that could be implemented by the archbishop of Panama, as was proposed to General Manuel Antonio Noriega and the opposition (poltical parties and the Civic Crusade, CC)

by President Oscar Arias, Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, and former Presidents Carlos Andres Perez [of Venezuela] and Daniel Oduber [of Costa Rica] on 28 March. As was indicated in the Panamanian Episcopal Conference communique of Holy Tuesday, 29 March, a prerequisite for the church to accept this task is the interested parties' acceptance of the church's service. Thus, it is expected that they will express their will in writing.

We have thus far received a positive written reply in two letters: the first signed by authorized officials of the CC, the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), and the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement (MOLIRENA); and the second signed by the authorized officials of the Authentic Panamenist Party (PPA). In both cases we have held additional contacts with these officials and they have insisted on the need to promptly attain the main points specified in their letters.

The archbishop of Panama is convinced that the initiatives to resolve the crisis that burdens the country are urgent, and he thus invites the rest of the parties to express their opinions on the subject as soon as possible so if the response is affirmative, the proposed mediation service can be implemented.

The response cannot be delayed further than next Monday night, 4 April, so as to not unnecessarily prolong the citizen's uncertainty. Once this deadline has elapsed and according to the response received from all parties, the church's mediation service can be initiated or ruled out.

May our resurrected lord shine on all the paths that lead to peace, liberty, reconcilliation, justice, and love.

[Signed] Panama Metropolitan Curia

Holy Saturday, 2 April 1988

U.S. Diplomats Rapped for Security Measures

PA032320 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 3 Apr 88 pp A-1, A-7

[Text] U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis has elicited the criticism of Panamanians and, basically, of Latin American and European diplomats, because now he has taken to being accompanied by a large number of escorts armed with very sophisticated equipment and with six or seven armored vehicles.

Davis apparently has something on his conscience or fears something, because he is protected by heavily armed men who permanently guard him to the point that when he appears anywhere, he offers a tremendous spectacle and everyone goes out to see what is happening.

It is not common to see this sort of thing in Panama and appears to resemble a plot for a gangster-style movie or portrays scenes in other nations where violence is part of everyday life. Therefore, we all agree that Arthur Davis is exaggerating things or has mistaken the country he is in.

The security surrounding Arthur Davis resembles the armored vehicles that guard and transport money from the banks, which definitively attracts attention and the rejection of those who witness this.

Davis' collaborator, John Maisto, has joined him in this persecution complex. They work together to create destabilization in Panama and now fear who knows what.

John Maisto, who serves as political adviser to the U.S. Embassy in Panama, is, so to speak, the second in command in that embassy. He is also surrounded by bodyguards, clearly demonstrating that he fears the evil he has sown will turn on him.

[Photograph of Arthur Davis has caption: "...So much fanfare, until when?"]

FDP Pursues Envoy's Car

PA040140 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0106 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 3 Apr (REUTER)—A climate of uncertainty, made worse by an unusual diplomatic incident, prevailed in Panama at the end of Holy Week amid a persistent strike against military leader Manuel Antonio Noriega and the imminent arrival of new U.S. troops here on Tuesday. [passage omitted]

To underline the climate of tension, a Panama Defense Forces [FDP] vehicle pursued the vehicle in which the U.S. ambassador was traveling; the FDP vehicle sounded its siren and turned on its flashing lights when the diplomat was returning from a visit to the papal nuncio.

The occupants of the military vehicle seemed to want to force Ambassador Arthur Davis' vehicle to the sidewalk.

"We consider this a serious incident," a U.S. Embassy spokesman stated.

He added, however, that no official protest will be lodged: "We can hardly file a protest if we do not recognize the government." [passage omitted]

Government on 'Incident'

PA041305 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1218 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Communique issued by Rodolfo Chiari de Leon, government and justice minister, in Panama City on 3 April]

[Text] The Ministry of Government and Justice informs the public that it has investigated the charges made against the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] by a U.S. Embassy spokesman. The ministry has concluded that there was no harassment whatsoever and that the action carried out by a police officer during the incident was not intended as harassment. It was strictly a police matter. The incident occurred when Sergeant Hector Arguelles, Badge No 1801, who was driving patrol car No 132, observed an excessive display of automatic weapons carried by civilians traveling in three cars escorting Ambassador Davis' armored vehicle.

Second Lieutenant Rigoberto Jaen noted that there was no interception, detention, or exchange of words. He said the FDP's alert reaction was strictly a police action on the Republic of Panama's sovereign territory.

The Panamanian Government headed by Manuel Solis Palma has at all times guaranteed the security of U.S. diplomatic representatives. This is despite their policy of not recognizing the current government and despite their insistence on recognizing as the Panamanian president an individual who gives no evidence of his presence in the Republic of Panama and whose dismissal from his post was decided by our government institutions according to our Constitution.

We would prefer not to believe that false accusations are being fabricated against our Armed Forces to justify an announced invasion of Panama. We reiterate the Panamanian Government's determination to protect the lives and property of Panamanians and foreigners, including U.S. citizens.

Panama City, 3 April 1988

[Signed] Rodolfo Chiari de Leon, government and justice minister

Opposition To Lift Strike on 4 April

PA012105 Paris AFP in Spanish 1930 GMT 1 Apr 88

[By special correspondent Isidro Sanchez]

[Excerpt] Panama City, 1 Apr (AFP)—Today private business sources reported that on Monday [4 April] the Panamanian opposition will lift the strike it began on 21 March without having achieved its goal of forcing General Manuel Antonio Noriega from power.

A National Civic Crusade member who wished to remain anonymous told AFP that the decision to reopen stores and other businesses was made by business organizations during a series of meetings that began Thursday. The source acknowledged that several supermarket chains and stores opened on Wednesday and that much of the initial momentum of the strike—which was initially observed by 90 percent of Panama's trade and industry—had been lost.

The strike—the second this year—had been termed "indefinite until Noriega leaves." The expulsion of Gen Noriega, Panama Defense Forces commander, is also being demanded by the Reagan administration and the Catholic Church in Panama.

The source said the Civic Crusade summoned workers on Monday "to outline to them the current situation and the possibility of organizing new protests" because, as a result of the closing of the media, the strike caused a lack of communication with the workers.

In addition, the businessman said he did not know when Civic Crusade leaders Ernesto Gonzalez de la Lastra and Olmedo Guillen, who were detained by authorities on Monday, will be released.

Government sources have reported that unemployment "worsened" in Panama. This is one of the areas most seriously affected by the crisis that started last year. The unemployment situation became worse in February, when President Eric Delvalle was removed by the Legislative Assembly. Without giving figures, a source pointed out that a "considerable number of employees have been dismissed since March and that this will likely become more serious" in April and May. Unemployment had already reached 14 percent and primarily affects the construction sector.

The source said that in the past few days many striking businesses have placed their employees on unpaid leave. "This is illegal and allows the employees to seize the businesses' assets," the source noted.

In addition, the banks, which employ approximately 9,000 people, could dismiss up to 50 percent of them, according to top officials of the international banking center in this city. [passage omitted]

Crusade To Demonstrate in Balboa 5 April

PA031930 Paris AFP in Spanish 1812 GMT 3 Apr 88

[By Isidro Sanchez]

[Excerpts] Panama City, 3 Apr (AFP)—A national dialogue to find a solution to the domestic crisis might begin this week even though relations between Panama and Washington have continued to deteriorate because of the White House decision to reinforce the U.S. military presence in the canal area.

Even though General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime on Sunday had yet to accept a proposal for a dialogue with the opposition and the mediation of the church, the government has stated its willingness to hold negotiations.

The disagreement between the two sides stems from the government's rejection of a mediation by Panama Archbishop Marcos McGrath, who is viewed by government officials as an "opponent in a cassock" because of a request last week for Gen Noriega's resignation as Defense Forces chief.

The government had initially proposed an alternate dialogue in which the opposition forces and the church would participate but with the church participating as "an interested party" and not as a mediator.

However, this initiative, which was made known through a progovernment labor organization, seemed to have failed in the last few hours after the main opposition party, the Authentic Panamenist Party (PPA) of former President Arnulfo Arias Madrid, expressed support for the church's proposal.

Despite the prevailing climate of confusion, local observers noted that after 10 months of crisis, the fact that the two sides have begun to talk of a dialogue is "significant progress."

Today Archbishop McGrath urged in a homily that the sectors that have yet to make known their position on the church's mediation offer—in other words, the government—do so "as soon as possible."

Today Civic Crusade spokesmen told the press that they will call for an opposition demonstration on Tuesday. They also said the general strike, which began 2 weeks ago and was lifted in the commercial sector over the weekend, will continue in the industrial sector.

The crusade's demonstration will be held in Balboa, in the canal area, and will coincide with the beginning of the arrival of 1,300 U.S. soldiers who, according to Washington, will be coming to protect the canal and the 45,000 North Americans who work [as received] in the waterway. [passage omitted]

The forthcoming arrival of new U.S. forces provoked angry reactions in the last few hours among Panamanian military and government sectors, which called on young people to get ready to face a possible military action.

The alert within the military leadership was reinforced by U.S. press reports indicating that Secretary of State George Shultz had proposed a commando operation to kidnap Noriega and extradite him to the United States.

Noriega, who the previous week placed his post "at the disposal" of President Manuel Solis, has warned that he will only leave power if there is a "Panamanian solution" and not because of U.S. pressures because, as he stated, under those circumstances he would be removed from the Army command "only dead."

Civic Crusade Member Roberto Pitty Arrested

PA020028 Paris AFP in Spanish 2347 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Panama City, 1 Apr (AFP)—Today the opposition Civic Crusade announced that Panama's state security arrested a Crusade member, Roberto Pitty, Thursday night in Chorrera, 70 km from Panama City.

The Crusade said the arrest was made by six armed men in civilian clothing while Pitty was participating in the traditional Holy Thursday "Silent Procession."

The police attempted to arrest Pitty on two previous occasions but were unable to find him, Crusade leaders said today. They also reported that the authorities are still holding Carlos de la Lastra and Olmedo Guillen, arrested last Monday in a state security operation against the opposition movement, which is demanding the resignation of strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

FDP Announces Promotions Among Ranks

PA031745 Panama City Television Service in Spanish 1615 GMT 3 Apr 88

[Text] The FDP [Panama Defense Forces] Command Staff reported this week promotions within the ranks of lieutenants, second lieutenants, first sergeants, second sergeants, first corporals, second corporals, agents [agentes], and agents' aids [ayudantes de agente].

The promotions were the following:

From second lieutenant to lieutenant, 54 officers; from first sergeant to second lieutenant, 75 officers; from second sergeant to first sergeant, 186 members; from first corporal to second sergeant, 200 officers; from second corporal to first corporal, 223 officers; from agent to second corporal, 480 officers; from agent's aid to agent, 20 officers; from orderly to agent's aid, 15 officers.

These promotions were recommended in the December 1987 evaluation of the promotion program reported by the FDP commander himself on 16 December 1987. Results of the evaluation were implemented by the end of March 1988.

Government Helps U.S. in Cocaine Seizure

PA011403 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 30 Mar 88 p 8

[Article by Toti Urriola: "Panama and the DEA Confiscate $15 Million in Cocaine Paste"]

[Excerpts] Special antidrug brigade units from Panama, Ecuador, Spain, and the U.S. DEA yesterday confiscated 300 kg of cocaine paste worth $15 million, which was en route to Barcelona, Spain. [passage omitted]

Our sources said that the cocaine was shipped from Guayaquil, Ecuador, by the Vemer Import-Export Company and was bound for Barcelona, Spain. Its confiscation while in Panamanian territory once again shows our country's cooperation in the battle fought by neighboring countries and by the U.S. DEA against the scourge of drugs. [passage omitted]

Argentina

Chile's Videla on Bilateral Relations

PY011505 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Chilean Deputy Foreign Minister Brigadier General Ernesto Videla expressed optimism regarding integration between the two countries and stated his conviction that relations between the two countries will improve every day. He said this yesterday after meeting with high-ranking Argentine Government officials.

He explained that he held lengthy meetings with Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo. At those meetings the two officials discussed ways and means for expediting the task of the binational integration commission. Videla said that basically integration has been restricted to trade, adding that joint ventures are being set up to better handle imports and exports.

Videla said that politically speaking there is growing Argentine interest in the process under way in Chile:

[Begin Videla recording] I believe there is great interest in the Chilean political process, just as we Chileans are interested in the Argentine political process. This is only to be expected, considering the nature of the relationship between the two countries.

I have held very interesting talks in which we addressed not only cooperation but also the situation of our two countries. [end recording]

Gen Videla stated that generally speaking relations with Argentina are normal, but with room for improvement.

Rico Circulates Bulletin, Warns of Attacks

PY030100 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2105 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Magdalena, 1 Apr (NA)—In a weekly bulletin that former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico writes and regularly distributes among several Argentine Army units, the leader of the military rebels has predicted that "attacks will take place within the next few days against Army units," and that those who sponsored "Operation Dignity" will be blamed for such attacks as an excuse to "decree a state of siege" and expand the "purge" within the military institution.

"Subversive groups are taking advantage of the conflictive situation and of the Army's psychological defenselessness to attack within the next few days several Army units, blaming these events on Operation Dignity," Rico states in the bulletin he writes weekly in his cell.

According to Rico, these attacks on military units will be attributed to a made-up OAS group, thus providing the government with justification to declare a state of siege an expand the purge, by accusing Operation Dignity of being a subversive faction."

Rico also claims that followers of Operation Dignity "have nothing to do with the attacks, robberies, and unfounded reports of the alleged escape of detainees." He added that "it is just a government maneuver to hold us responsible for these acts."

The weekly bulletin, which is called FORTALEZA, is written by Rico himself. It has six typed pages, and is sent regularly to several military units in Misiones, Corrientes, Formosa, Neuquen, Cordoba, Mendoza, San Luis, Santa Cruz, Buenos Aires, Salta, and Tucuman, according to a close relative of the rebel group leader.

The eighth issue of this bulletin is dated 1 April. In all issues Rico includes captions, quoting Catholic theologians like Royo Marin, Pope Paul VI, and the Cardinal of Pretz, Juan Pablo de Gondi.

The latest bulletin is divided by subject, the first of which is "The Psychological and Social Sphere." This chapter depicts the situation as reflected in the headlines of this week's newspapers.

In the chapter entitled "The Political Sphere" Rico refers to the political parties and the government, while in "The Economic Sphere" section he analyzes the economic situation in the provinces and throughout the nation.

In an article entitled "The Military Sphere," Rico analyzes the situation created in the Army by the officers who recently went undergorund, as well as the current situation of the various units in the face of "the removals ordered by current Army Chief of Staff, Dante Caridi."

Rico analyzes the recent "police outburts" in Tucuman Province and states that "this incident may be repeated elsewhere in the country in the near future."

He criticizes "the authorization given to Colonel Rezzat, who is under light preventive custody, to take a course at the War College" because "this is a strange interpretation of the military laws by the military court."

Rico addresses the events that took place during last year's Holy Week and states that "General Rios Erenu, Vidal, Balza, Dasso; Colonels Masey, Quevedo, Kriegger; and Brigadier Julia will be involved in this case very shortly."

In the chapter entitled "The Defense Sphere," Rico defends the "war over the sovereignty of the Malvinas" and stresses that "the Armed Forces are ready to fight Great Britain again, but the people still believe in the farce staged by the national executive branch."

In his weekly "Fortaleza," Rico also analyzes the political and institutional situation created by the teachers' strike, the nonpayment of taxes by the people and the businessmen, and "the political ineptitude that could lead to general nonviolent civil disobedience."

In its "Final Thoughts" section the bulletin calls upon "all military personnel, officers and noncommissioned officers to be prepared for an internal or external conflict," because this is the only way to discourage the enemies of national sovereignty over the Malvinas."

The bulletin states that "the Argentine political system is exhausted due to incompetent leadership." It adds that "there will be a power vacuum like the one in 1976 if the government does not reach an immediate agreement with the sectors that hold the real power."

The bulletin's final words on the military situation are: "Caridi's group and its political partners have decreased the purge within the Armed Forces in the last few days." It adds, however, that "this purge will continue gradually as a way of relieving the tense internal situation."

PJ Leader's Home, Car Bombed in La Plata

PY040254 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0107 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Text] La Plata, 3 Apr (NA)—Two explosive devices exploded here today destroying the car and the front of the house of Juan Carlos Palacios, a leader of the Justicialist Party [PJ] and a member of the organizing board in La Plata that is running the presidential campaign of Carlos Menem.

The first bomb caused damage to the leader's house, located at 188 24th Street in this capital, while the second bomb, which exploded seconds later, burnt out the [words indistinct] car that was parked in the garage.

This information was provided tonight by Palacios' wife, a dentist, who explained that the attack [words indistinct] at approximately 0300 [0600 GMT]. La Plata police are investigating.

Party sources have said that they could not say where the attack came from, which occurred just when the wave of threats linked to the Easter Week incidents were decreasing.

Palacios and his family were inside the house when the attack occurred, but no one was wounded.

Extreme Right Blamed for Bomb Attacks

PY021456 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1145 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 2 Apr (NA)—Ricardo Natale, chief of the National Intelligence Center (CNI), has said that "residual elements of the extreme right who are not linked to the Aldo Rico group" are responsible for the bomb attacks and telephone threats. He added that although the threats have declined since 30 March they still created some uneasiness on Good Friday.

Natale told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that "the evidence is leading to the extreme rightists who took over the Metropolitan Airport on 19 January."

Natale said that "these people have nothing to do" with the military group headed by former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico "or with the officers who went underground."

Despite the fact that it was Good Friday, the false reports about bombs in various parts of the city continued, but there were fewer reports than on 30 March. In La Plata, police deactivated a plastic explosive bomb in a public bathroom, which could have had serious consequences had the bomb exploded.

In this capital the Federal Police bomb squad had to make emergency runs to several places, but the most dramatic situation occurred at noon when an anonymous call warned of a bomb at [words indistinct] of Uruguay. However, the bomb squad found only a bag containing trash and electric cables, which was probably put there on purpose.

The psychological campaign unleashed against the civilian population coincides with the 1st anniversary of the Holy Week military uprising last year. [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Labor, Peasant Leaders Plan Strikes, Blockades

PY020210 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2314 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] La Paz, 1 Apr (EFE)—Labor and peasant leaders today announced that an indefinite general strike and general blockades of roads will be carried out to exert pressure on the government to meet the socioeconomic demands of the Bolivian popular sectors.

COB Secretary Rufo Rivera stated that the strike will be held on 11 April, and that it will be the people's response to the government's decision to decentralize public education and health, and to increase fuel prices.

Rivera reported that beginning next Monday, 4 April, 24- hour strikes will be held in the districts. He added that in a general meeting of workers' leaders scheduled for next Friday, new measures for antigovernment protests will be adopted.

Genaro Flores, Executive Secretary of the Single Union Confederation of Bolivian Peasant Workers (CSUTCB), stated that his organization will call for the general blockade of roads beginning on Monday, 11 April, because "the peasants have exhausted their patience."

He added, however, that the blockade will be carried out only if the Executive Branch fails to meet the social and economic demands submitted by the COB.

The COB has asked the government for a general increase of salaries, an increase in the fiscal budget for health and education, preservation of state enterprises, and the granting of a bonus to the unemployed, and other groups.

Officials Deny Existence of 'Santa Cruz Cartel'

PY020205 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2241 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] La Paz, 1 Apr (EFE)—The Bolivian Interior Ministry is officially unaware of the existence of a so-called "Santa Cruz cartel," which day before yesterday claimed reponsability for the murder of two drug agents in the eastern city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

Interior Ministry sources have told EFE that so far, the intelligence services have not detected the existence of any organization of drug traffickers with that name.

They said, however, that the appropriate investigations have begun, adding that the report is unconfirmed because it was broadcast by a television channel whose employees reported that they had received an anonymous call claiming that the crime had been committed by the "Santa Cruz Cartel."

According to the report, that organization of cocaine traffickers is linked to the Colombian "Medellin Cartel," and it threatened to execute "corrupt" policemen, judges, and other people.

Unofficial sources have linked the death of agents Dardo Paz Mendez and Victor Urquizo Rodriguez, machinegunned from a vehicle, to the murder of alleged Bolivian drug trafficker William "Pato" Pizarro more than a week ago in Medellin. The sources say that this was to "settle accounts" for a possible denunciation.

Brazil

Navy, Air Force Promotions Announced

PY011514 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 31 Mar 88 p 8

[Text] Brasilia—Yesterday President Jose Sarney signed several decrees promoting Air Force and Navy officers in keeping with lists submitted by the high command of each branch. Army promotions were announced on Saturday.

In the Air Force, Flavio Petersen, Roberto Mucillo de Medeiros, Marcio Callafange, and Umberto de Campos Carvalho Neto were promoted to Brigadier of Air, and Flavio Rizzo Braga was promoted to Brigadier, Medical Corps.

In the Navy, Renato de Miranda Monteiro was promoted to squadron admiral; Pedro Steenhagen Filho and Arnaldo Leite Pereira were promoted to vice admiral; and Arlindo Vianna Filho, Cesar Lucier Miranda Leal, Sergio Martins Ribeiro, and Carlos Federico Vasconcelos da Silva obtained the rank of rear admiral. Armando Fernandes de Carlos and Icaro Passos were promoted to vice admiral, and Joffre Goncalves de Magalhaes and Joel Rodriguez da Silva were promoted to rear admiral, Quartermaster Corps. Hadoran Calazans was promoted to vice admiral, Medical Corps.

Chile

Pro-Pinochet Group Board Dismisses President

PY011516 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1845 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Santiago, 31 Mar (EFE)—The executive board of the Pinochetist Independent Movement of Chile (MPICh) has dismissed its president, Abraham Abrilot, after accusing him of various "irregularities."

The leadership of the MPICh has been entrusted to Ricardo Valenzuela, who was appointed provisional president, and Fernando Conejeros, who is director of public relations.

According to news media reports, the new MPICh leaders said Abrilot had been asked to resign several times because of "his inability to do the job and an arbitrary decisionmaking policy."

In turn, Abrilot charged the new leaders with having held positions of trust in the administration of late Chilean President Salvador Allende.

Political Parties Score Officer's Remarks

PY021301 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1515 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Text] Santiago, 2 Apr (EFE)—Chilean political parties today criticized in the country's press the comments made by Colonel Jose Zara, director of the Army Black Beret School, who talked about using the "corvos" (curved knives) to defend the government.

Jose Zara on 31 March, addressing President Augusto Pinochet, said the Black Berets will not allow "an attitude of conciliation or treason because our brilliant and sharp-edged corvos are ready to answer the call of our leader to defend the dear Chilean people."

Christian Democratic leader Ramon Briones rejected "the attempt to frighten the country in such a violent manner, especially during Easter."

He added that "the Chilean people, with or without uniforms, are not going to be frightened by worn-out threats made from a position of power against an unarmed population who only want to live in peace."

German Riesco, vice president of the center-right National Party, said that "it is not right for military commanders to get involved in everyday politics because it goes against the professionalism and apolitical position of the armed institutions."

Hernan Vodanovic of the moderate Socialist Party said that "Colonel Zara's remarks seem to me grotesque, cruel, and intolerably aggressive, and they should be immediately clarified by the high command to which that colonel belongs."

5 Million Registered for Plebiscite 'So Far'

PY011157 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Ignacio Garcia, director of the National Electoral Registration Service, has reported that more than 5 million people have registered for the plebiscite so far. Garcia added that more people registered in March than in January and February. He went on to say that at this rate 6.5 to 7 million people would probably register by June or July this year.

Garcia stated that although the people registered in March have not been surveyed yet, youths, who so far have displayed the least interest in registering, are beginning to show a little more enthusiasm toward this legal requirement.

Social Democratic Party Registration Accepted

PY011409 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Today's issue of the OFFICIAL GAZETTE published a resolution of the National Electoral Registration Service accepting the registration request of the Chilean Social Democratic Party [Partido Social Democracia Chilena], which was submitted on 9 February 1988. The request was signed by party President Amador Navarro and party Secretary General Levian Munoz Pellicier.

CAUCE Director Released After 8 Days

PY011507 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1450 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Santiago, 31 Mar (EFE)—Francisco Herreros, the director of CAUCE magazine, was released last night after spending 8 days in prison. Upon leaving the prison he said his arrest had been motivated by the sluggishness of the courts.

Herreros left the Santiago Prison where he was being held because he had been charged before a military court with offending the Armed Forces in an editorial published by CAUCE.

While the military court released Herreros, two other CAUCE journalists, Alvaro Briones and Victor Vaccaro, have been summoned by a judge advocate to testify.

Carabineros Officer Shot to Death in Santiago

PY021928 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Text] Regarding the cowardly attack that took place this morning in El Pinar neighborhood, during which an officer of the Carabineros Public Relations Department died, the following communique has been released:

1. At 0905 today Carabineros officer Alfredo Rivera Rojas, dressed in his uniform, was waiting for the bus at the corner of Virgilio Vaquera Avenue and Agricola Street. As he was about to board the bus, he was suddenly attacked by three individuals who snatched his regulation pistol and fired it, seriously wounding him.

2. Due to his serious wounds, Rivera died as he was being taken in an ambulance to the Carabineros hospital.

3. Rivera, 35, married, with two children, had served with the Carabineros police for 14 years and 8 months.

4. The details of this incident have been submitted to the Santiago military court.

5. Carabineros are carrying out intense operations to find the criminals and arrest them.

6. The office of the chief of Carabineros of the metropolitan area harshly condemns this criminal attack that was perpetrated against a member of this corps.

Signed: Duty officer at the office of the chief of Carabineros of the metropolitan area

Group Attacks Santiago Military Unit, Wounds 2

PY020038 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2244 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Santiago, 1 Apr (EFE)—Today an armed extremist group attacked a military unit located in downtown Santiago, leaving two noncommissioned officers wounded, an official report said.

The attack occurred at 0550 local time (0950 GMT) as unidentified people opened fire on the military unit from a car. When duty personnel repelled the attack, a shootout took place. Noncommissioned officers Ivan Lopez Lobos and Jorge Fuentes Moraga were wounded during the shootout.

Lopez Lobos sustained two bullet wounds: One bulled pierced his right leg, while the other lodged in his chest. For his part, Fuentes Moraga had a bullet lodged in his skull. Both officers were hospitalized at the Santiago Military Hospital.

According to the official report the attackers managed to escape, although they were presumably wounded.

3 Arrested in FPMR Arms Cache Discovery

PY011433 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] The people who owned or occupied the houses where two arms caches and other material of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] were discovered recently have been arrested and placed at the disposal of the judge advocate.

Carabineros personnel arrested brothers Francia Ureta Marino and Hernan Alejandro Ureta Marino, ages 29 and 23, respectively. Carabineros also arrested Sandra Aran Gonzalez, 23.

The arms caches found at 0160 Lamar Street and in (Bello Totur) Alley contained many explosives that had been hidden under the floors of the two houses. Carabineros found 30 kg of AN-FO [ammonium nitrate—fuel oil blasting agent], two Vietnamese bombs [not further identified], 40 homemade hand grenades, ammunition of various calibers, a manual mimeograph, first-aid kits, camping gear, and a considerable quantity of Marxist literature.

The material seized and the people involved were placed at the disposal of the Valparaiso judge advocate this morning after having been held at the Carabineros station in Quilpue.

If we were to pay attention to the age of the youths involved in this sad affair, we would realize that our youth is being taken advantage of by the opposition, which uses them as veritable cannon fodder. In fact, 15 years ago Francia Ureta was only 14 years old, Hernan Ureta was only 8, and Sandra Aran was also only 8. We leave the conclusion up to you dear listeners, dear Chilean parents.

Colombia

Church Offers Mediation With Guerrillas

PA011457 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Bogota—The church made a new offer to the government through the Senate to mediate the resumption of talks with the guerrillas and to strengthen the peace process. Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo warned that unless the government accepts the church's mediation, there is never going to be an end to violence in Colombia. The prelate said that the president has not paid enough attention to the church's offer to resume talks with the guerrillas.

Cardinal Lopez Trujillo emphasized that unfortunately it is impossible to intercede unless there are serious intentions by all parties concerned and unless there is a political willingness in the country. He added that only then will peace reign among Colombians.

Paraguay

Stroessner Opens National Congress Session

PY011801 Asuncion Red Nacional de Television in Spanish 1207 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Speech by President Alfredo Stroessner at the opening session of the National Congress in Asuncion—live]

[Excerpts] Honorable members of the Congress:

In keeping with Article 180, Paragraph 10, of the national Constitution, I appear before you to report on the actions that have been undertaken by the government from 1 April 1987 to date.

Congress is one of the strongholds of our democracy. Here the political parties, through their representatives elected by the people, discuss the main issues that concern this country and draw up laws that help consolidate our free institutions and further the development of our nation.

At the opening session of Congress on 1 April 1884, the illustrious General Bernardino Caballero said: I feel the utmost satisfaction at seeing peace prevail in the country. He went on to add: When the people become truly convinced in their hearts that order is a prerequisite for social coexistence, then one can have well-founded hopes for the future of this people.

As a citizen who has attained power through the decision of the citizenry in order to carry out the supreme ideals of the Colorado Party that Gen Bernardino Caballero founded more than 100 years ago, I am greatly pleased at being able to address the representatives of the people. You are witnessing the peace prevailing in Paraguay, a peace that is an achievement of patriotism, a peace that honors us in the eyes of the Americas and the world, an indestructible peace that is the source of well-being for current generations and a foretaste of a great future, a peace that is one of the valuable, although intangible, assets of the nation. [applause]

We have not come to this forum of the people's sovereignty to engage in illusory rhetoric. We have come to state facts that prove that Paraguay has definitely left behind the times of anarchy, inefficient administrations, idleness, and spiritual dejection, and now turns evey day into one of enthusiastic and creative toil, thus recreating some of the most brilliant times in the nation's history.

This is an administration of accomplishments, a government that continually seeks to promote progress through patriotic and dynamic toil that helps us overcome difficulties thanks to the strong will and the optimism of the Paraguayan people.

Our democracy is not merely a nice-sounding proclamation of principles or rights; it is a true worship of human dignity and a continual effort for the common good.

We do not lavish promises, but rather we accumulate accomplishments that open a promising future for our fatherland. We use power in order to create better living conditions for all who live on Paraguayan soil. We do not use podiums or any other political forums to engage in demagoguery. We fulfill our moral commitment to the people by engaging in politics in a dignified, firm, and resolutely creative manner.

Our democracy is built on work and faith in the value of patriotism. It is protected by the armor of sovereignty which epitomizes our inalienable decision to remain free forever. We are a nation proud of the independence we inherited from our founding fathers, an independence we have preserved and will continue to preserve without yielding an inch to those who seek to interfere in affairs that concern Paraguayans alone. [applause]

Our government is one of high moral standards because it abides by our historical principles and the ideals of our patriotic people, a people great in times of war and great in times of peace.

Our democracy is not and never will be weak. Its strength comes from the law, and it can never be defeated because it is supported by the innermost feelings and thoughts of our deeply patriotic people.

We shall not lower our guard in the defense of our constitutional state for the very same reasons that we cannot lower our guard in the defense of life in freedom, amid effective respect for human rights, progress, and happiness.

Decree 24,747, dated 30 September 1987, called the people to participate in genera' elections for the president of the nation, senators, deputies, and members of electoral boards of five metropolitan districts and 223 rural districts.

In response to this call for free elections, free as all the other elections periodically held during these times of full respect for democratic institutions, the National Republican Association, or Colorado Party; the Radical Liberal Party; and the Liberal Party held their conventions and registered their candidates at the National Electoral Board. The electoral campaigns of these parties took place amid total political freedom. They included many meetings and rallies held on streets and squares, and the dissemination of information through various mass media.

A few groups that represent no one, groups that have deserted democracy, preached either abstention at the elections in violation of constitutional provisions and electoral regulations, or the casting of blank votes, seeking to pressure the people who were enthusiastically engaged in political campaigning for their clear-cut political options.

These people, enemies of suffrage, which is a means for expressing popular sovereignty and therefore the shield and banner of any democratic society, failed completely because the people massively participated in the elections and fulfilled their duty to the fatherland and to freedom honorably, and displayed great political maturity.

The elections on 14 February 1988 were held normally without any incidents, actions, or situations to mar the magnificent event through which Paraguay's honorable and prestigious democracy was honored. [applause]

Not a single drop of blood was shed, not one outburst of violence took place on 14 February, and the citizenry cast their votes in the capital and rural areas within the framework of peace and the rights set forth in the Constitution and the electoral law, thus setting an overwhelming and memorable example of faith in the government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

The clean and honest elections for which 1,446,675 citizens had registered yielded the following results: the Colorado Party, or National Republican Association, obtained 1,187,738 votes [applause]; the Radical Liberal Party obtained 95,450 votes; the Liberal Party obtained 42,430 votes; 7,818 votes were anulled; 6,507 votes were blank; and 106,718 people did not vote. [all figures as heard]

Thus, wielding the vote as a weapon, imbued with their immense Colorado fervor, raising high their banners of peace, civic decency, and coexistence among all Paraguayans, the Colorados gave an overwhelming and definitive victory to the great promoter of our freedom and of the progress of our fatherland, the glorious majority party, the National Republican Association, founded by the immortal Gen Bernardino Caballero.

On 14 February the winners were peace and democracy because the great Colorado Party does not preach partisanship. It epitomizes lofty motivations and commitment to the greatness of the fatherland.

Distinguished foreign dignitaries and dozens of journalists from all over the world visited the country and saw the fairness of our elections. [passage omitted]

Democracy is here to stay. The totalitarians have lost, and the freedom-loving Paraguayans have won. Paraguay is living through times of toil, development, calm, and national unity. There is no room here for hate or subversives, for anyone or anything that can undermine the moral and spiritual foundations of our nation.

The people are thankful to God for the happiness and the beneficial calm of these times, times in which we offer to the people the most Christian and patrotic gift, this industrious peace that makes Paraguay more dignified and great.

Amid this encouraging situation we are getting ready to receive on our soil next month the great preacher of peace, love, and faith, His Holiness Pope John Paul II. [applause] [passage omitted]

We are pleased and enthusiastic, and our conscience is at ease because we can offer the pope this atmosphere of coexistence, toil, and fraternal feelings; an atmosphere of political stability free from strikes, stoppages, political prisoners, street turmoil, bloody riots, or a youth annihilated by drug addiction or degraded by totalitarian ideologies that advocate violence and crimes.

Our country, blessed by the countless benefits of peace, will joyously hail the arrival of the respected and tireless pilgrim for a better world. [passage omitted]

Honorable members of the Congress, Paraguay's foreign policy is straightforward, firm, and coherent. It abides by the principles of Western and Christian civilization. We are staunch champions of the principle of nonintervention in domestic affairs of other nations, of the peoples' right to self-determination, and of the legal equality of states.

During the 42d session of the UN General Assembly, Paraguay was chosen by a vast majority of the members to hold the post of vice president of the General Assembly. This shows the high level of prestige our country has attained in the world. Paraguay is admired for its peace and its permanent respect for international law.

Our country also obtained the vice presidency of the annual meeting of the Inter-American Council for Education, Science, and Culture of the OAS. At the beginning of 1988, we obtained another significant international prize: the presidency of the OAS Permanent Council.

UN Secretary General Dr Javier Perez de Cuellar has sent me a very meaningful letter, inviting me to attend the third extraordinary period of sessions of the UN General Assembly that will discuss disarmament from 31 May to 25 June at the UN headquarters in New York, and to address the meeting on issues of great interest to the world. [passage omitted]

I have answered the letter of this outstanding statesman, this person of reknowned international standing, to the effect that unless prevented by circumstances beyond my control I will go to the United Nations as an envoy of the feelings of peace, coexistence, and good will of the Paraguayan people. [applause]

Paraguay makes and will continue to make its sovereignty respected because it epitomizes national dignity and constitutes a basic asset, which has been defended at the expense of a great deal of bloodshed by our heroes and martyrs, who have left us an honorable legacy that will never be jeopardized by our hesitation or weakness.

We speak out clearly at international forums upholding a position based on the Paraguayan people's spirit of peace and cooperation. We firmly condemn terrorism. We oppose anything that can jeopardize internal coexistence, and we extol the significance of relations among peoples that share the same faith in freedom and progress.

Through our deeds we promote the ideal of integration and prove that by defending freedom we are defending human rights. we are not prepared to take lessons in democracy. Democracy in Paraguay is built and strengthened by the people, who have the most honorable political convictions and who do not accept foreign interference, which is incompatible with the unblemished honor of the Paraguayan race. [applause] [passage omitted]

In a democracy the majority rules and the minorities must help to make a good government by playing the role of public monitors in keeping with the institutional system of a free society. We believe in disagreements as long as one abides by the law and is honestly convinced of one's position. We do not believe in the type of disagreements that take undue advantage of the law, advocate anarchy instead of order, and refuse to admit even the most obvious signs of progress, blinded by regressive fanaticism.

Let no one dare treat us as a colonial trading post. Paraguay has chosen its course, and the interests of foreign manipulators will not make it change. Our path is marked by a nationalist approach, ideas that have not been imported from anywhere, formulas that are not brought in from somewhere else. Our path is the shining path of Francia, Lopez, and Bernardino Caballero. [applause]

The peaceful revolution will roll on, unleashing our nationalistic and creative fervor to its full extent. Its objective is to preserve the freedom of man and add meaning to our policy, which is inspired in social rights set forth emphatically in that law of laws that has given honor to our free institutions, the democratic 1967 Constitution.

The victorious morale of our bloodless revolution will not be undermined by the evil criticism of embittered people or the opinions of the weaklings and the failures who have no support among the people. Neither will our actions be affected by the slanderous campaigns orchestrated by international communism.

We are only interested in what the people think about us, and the people support our efforts which, far from any partisan objectives, put the spiritual strength of the Colorado Party at the service of the true inspirations of our people. The exemplary Armed Forces of the nation, loyal to the past, the present, and the future of Paraguay, are here to protect this popular will. [applause]

No one and nothing will disrupt this situation fraught with greatness and hope. We live in peace, and in peace we shall continue to live for the greater glory of our flag. [applause]

On this Good Friday, which reminds us of Christ's noble sacrifice to save mankind, I call upon the feelings of our people to ask God, our Lord, to continue blessing and enlightening the fate of our nation.

Honorable members of the Congress, at the opening of the new legislative period my wish is that patriotism may guide your actions for the good of the Republic of Paraguay.

Liberals Rap Election, Leave Congress Session

PY011512 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 31 Mar 88 p 7

[Excerpts] "We are leaving the session to protest the fraud against the Liberal Party at the 14 February elections. We believe we are right in doing so, because being democratic citizens the least we can ask for is respect for our party's background and concern over the fraud we have reported in the latest elections." This was Tadeo Centurion Sostoa's explanation of the Liberal Party bloc's withdrawal after its members took their oath at the Senate yesterday.

He added that "our duly founded claims submitted to the appropriate authorities have been ignored." [passage omitted]

Upon being told that the temporary nature of their withdrawal and the fact that they will come back later makes the gesture meaningless, Centurion Sostoa stated: "We will come back because our mission is to continue denouncing all the outrages committed against the citizens of this nation." [passage omitted]

Peru

State of Emergency Extended in Two Provinces

PY021725 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1607 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Text] Lima, 2 Apr (EFE)—Today the Peruvian Government extended the state of emergency for 60 days in two provinces of Pasco Department, the central mountain range of the country, because the terrorist violence continues.

The state of emergency suspends individual guarantees, and the control of the zone falls under a political-military command.

Six provinces of Apurimac Department, eight of Ayacucho, and six of Huancavelica, which are adjacent to each other in southern Peru, are also under a state of emergency.

The other areas under a state of emergency are Lima, the port of Callao, San Martin Department in the north, and a province and a district in Huanuco Department, which is next to San Martin.

Approximately half of the 21 million inhabitants of Peru are affected by the measures.

Rebels Kill 15 Civil Guardsmen in Huanuco

PA031950 Paris AFP in Spanish 1933 GMT 3 Apr 88

[Text] Lima, 3 Apr (AFP)—At least 15 civil guardsmen were killed, 3 were wounded, and an undetermined number disappeared last night when a suspected Shining Path group attacked the police post in the remote town of Panao in Huanuco Department, east of Lima, regional police sources reported today.

Village Occupied

PY040201 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2016 GMT 3 Apr 88

[Text] Lima, 3 Apr (EFE)—Today the Peruvian Interior Ministry reported that the Peruvian Maoist organization the Shining Path took over a village in Huanuco Department and killed at least one policeman and destroyed all the public buildings.

According to the official information, on 2 April approximately 300 members of the Shining Path took over the village of Panao, Pachitea Province. After closing the highway to Huanuco, they killed a Civil Guard.

The deputy prefect (deputy governor) of Huanuco, Adolfo Lara, reports that activists of the Peruvian Communist Party and members of the Shining Path blew up the offices of the deputy prefect, the municipality, and the state Agrarian and De la Nacion Banks with dynamite.

The Interior Ministry has reported that public order has been reestablished in that Andean region.

Lara said that the Shining Path organization has virtually cordoned off Huanuco, 412 km from Lima, because during the past few days it has carried out actions in all the provinces next to the capital of that department.

On 30 March, the group killed six members of the Republican Guard and six campesinos 60 km south of Huanuco. The people were traveling in a truck that the Shining Path blew up.

Venezuela

Lusinchi Leaves for Official Visit to Japan

PA031637 Paris AFP in Spanish 1529 GMT 3 Apr 88

[Text] Caracas, 3 Apr (AFP)—This morning Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi left for Japan and will arrive there on Tuesday. Lusinchi will be the first Venezuelan chief of state ever to visit Tokyo officially.

The president's 2-week trip originally included Indonesia, China, and Thailand, but the visit to China was cancelled a few weeks ago, and today's official report does not mention Thailand.